'28—A—Civil Engineering—M. O.' As the House knows, the public have decided to erect a statue of His Highness the Maharaja in Ernakulam and the site selected for that is near the present Huzur jetty. Government consider it necessary to improve the ground surrounding the site and for this purpose an additional allotment of Rs. 9,000 is necessary. I request that the House be pleased to allow this grant.

The demand was put and carried.

7. Rs. 24,000 under 28—A—Civil Engineering—B. O.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 24,000 under '28—A—Civil Engineering—B. O.'. This expenditure is necessary for completing the work already taken up in the Guest House. There were certain minor deviations in the work. I request that the House be pleased to allow this grant.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know what is the nature of the deviation that has been subsequently added in the work. The amount appears to be rather huge.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): There have been small excess in the estimates in a few items. The important one is an item of Rs. 3,000 for putting up a hot water system in the Guest House. Then for doing some water-proofing arrangement, roughly an expenditure of Rs. 1,700 is necessary. Then for some sanitary fittings, Rs. 2,000. There are similar other items numbering in all 25.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know the amount spent up to this time on the Guest House?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): The expenditure on the Guest House till the benginning of this year was 1,01,498. We have to spend Rs. 1,40,000 this year. That is the amount spent on the Guest House alone.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): What about the land acquisition cost?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): Land acquisition is a different class of work altogether. It is a work for improving the town and to sweep away marshy places. I refer only to the construction of the House. Its minimum cost would be Rs. 2,34,000.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier (*Cheruthuruthi*): Does it represent the cost on the building alone?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): Building, electrical installation and other fittings?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier (*Cheruthuruthi*): Is furniture included?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): It is separately provided for in the budget.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): What is the amount spent on the land acquisition and reclamation of the area?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): I want notice. It is not a part of this scheme. It is only a part of the town improvement scheme.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Is it something connected with the Municipality or with the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): The Government have already stated in the House the condition of the area surrounding the present Guest House. As regards, the cost, of reclaiming, I may say it is about Rs. 60,000.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): It comes in the close vicinity of a lakh.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (*Mattancheri*): May I know whether it is possible, to complete the work with this Rs. 24,000?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

The demand was put and carried.

The House rose for lunch at 1-5 p. m. and re-assembled at 2-30 p. m. with the Hon'ble the Deputy President in the Chair.

The Cochin Village Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Sir, I move that the Cochin Village Panchayat Act Amendment Bill be read in Council.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I suppose all of you know the implications of this Bill. Under clause 52 (1) of the Cochin Civil Procedure Code, the minimum pay of Rs. 20 in the case of Government servants, is exempted from attachment. But by section 58 (*g*) (2) of the Cochin Village Panchayat Act, a salary of Rs. 10 and below alone is exempt from attachment. The object of the present amendment is to raise this amount from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 and to bring the section in the Village Panchayat Act into line with that in the Civil Procedure Code. This is a non-controversial Bill and I hope there will not be any opposition to it.

The motion was put and carried.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly